

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a broadband communication link;

a demultiplexer coupled to a plurality of physical ports and the broadband communication link; and

a network element coupled to the communication link, the network element modeling the plurality of physical ports and providing a two-tier hierarchy of shaping and scheduling of flows directed to the plurality of physical ports, the network element including a first flow shaper to shape a plurality of flows directed to a remote physical port (RPP), a first scheduler to schedule the flows shaped by the first flow shaper to yield a scheduled flow, a second flow shaper to shape the scheduled flow, and a trunk scheduler to schedule the flow shaped by the second flow shaper for transmission to the RPP.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The system of Claim 12 further comprising:

a plurality of data structures populated with data indicating characteristics of a remote physical port (RPP); and

a database populated with flow parameters.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 14 wherein a one-to-one correspondence exists between RLP data structures and RPPs.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~13~~ 12 wherein the network element comprises:

a queue for each flow directed at a physical port and wherein shaping and scheduling are performed by pointer manipulation.

17-22. (Cancelled)